

intervene, the bus charge is 6d., or, as at the Pine-Apple-gate, Edgeware-road, the inhabitant above bar (at Kilburn) has to walk beyond the gate, for the 3d. bus goes no farther; and if the day be wet, or other circumstances induce him to ride from his door, he must take the long bus and pay 6d., and this, perhaps, for only a few yards farther.

It would appear to persons like me, not over intimate with municipal regulations, that the toll-bar would be better placed completely beyond the bounds of the town, city, and precincts; say, at least half-a-mile extra the mass of habitations, or what civic authorities may (for aught I know) call "the bills of mortality."

Quite certain is it that *Kensington, Notting-hill, Kilburn*, and such other places as are situated within the trust bounds, and without civic immunity, are subjected to grievous disadvantages, and that the sooner the unseemly restrictive and onerous imposition of these barriers is removed the better for all parties.

These bars are the *ne plus ultra* of barbarism, a plague to the man of business or pleasure-seeker; a sort of prison bound to the shop-keeper; of great public annoyance on Derby and such festive days; and, so far as *Kensington* is concerned, likely to be unfavourable to free intercourse towards the Exhibition of 1851. Do, Mr. Editor, cry out against them, and get the press to echo a requiem to such incumbered legacies of our forefathers, as ill suited to our occasions and our day as are the subjects of many other changes suggested by

QUONDAM.

#### LEICESTER SQUARE.

WHETHER there be any native inhabitants domiciled in this busy square, or parallelogram, or trapezium, seems to be a matter of doubt, since it would appear that in such case their eyes must be opened to the desolation in which the fair field of St. Martin's is fallow. No: this is the quarter of strangers: and the shopkeepers of the vicinity having suburban villas, retire from town by nightfall, having no time in the day to spare a glance from their business. The shopkeepers are literally and solely shopkeepers; and the real occupants are the alien visitors to the metropolis.

In this state of things it has happened that an irruption of the Goths has overrun the turbary, and prostrated the whole forest of arborage within the once florid *escuinte*.

It is a wonder, that in the pressure for patronage, our ministry have never appointed a ranger to so important a public domain: no *castos* nor even a parish beadle! Surely it may be considered royal property, since George II. has ridden the high horse in bronze there for above a century. Were such an officer appointed (and it would be quite as natural as a ranger at 1,200*l.* a year to Hyde-park), then this little member of the urban lungs might be clear of turbercles, healthy and free breathing as ever!

To a loyal subject it is matter of deep concern to witness the indignity done to a glorious deceased potentate. Why, it was only yesterday that a ragged urchin (I suppose a disloyalist from St. Giles's) was riding *en croupe* behind the stately effigy, and mocked defunct royalty with grimace and antics which none observed, save the French denizens of that quarter, and your own horror-stricken correspondent. It was useless to reprove the ragged-muffin, for the attempt would have been instantly resented by fifty others, his companions, and my fate, however unmerited, must have been worse than Mr. Sibbans's, as there was a sea of mud on the spot to submerge or pelt me. All I could do was to ask a shopkeeper opposite something about the square. He comprehended me not, but replied something about a square silk handkerchief, which he said was 5*s.* 4*d.* the square!

In this dilemma I addressed myself to a cabman looking lugubrious on his stand, and leaning on the broken rails. He had had sufficient time for observation, for he had rosted there, as he said, on his luck, three hours a day; and, struck by my concern for the condition of the green, complained that the householders about, if they did as they ought, should make a free cab-stand of the whole space, adding that he should bring in a favourite dunkey to browse, and that, if that throve, he might try a few geese; "for," said he, "a drunken man fell against the railing a

month back, and so weak was it that he stove it in."

The cabman's reasoning was not amiss, for then the loose would be of use to somebody.

But really, although this may appear trifling, it is strongly characteristic of the neglect and misapplication of fine sites in London. Our sensitive neighbours are fully alive to our failings, or rather want of taste and feeling, in these respects; and in 1851, when John Bull is to receive so many visitors, his house ought to be swept and garnished. I will almost venture to affirm that Mr. Anderson, Mr. Henderson, or some other of our horticulturists, would (if they did not plant the space with limes and laurels) at least sow it with mignonette, for the glory of England!

To give plans for a right application would be useless, as *THE BUILDER* has before given them: those plans hitherto promulgated in the same way (like the *Enclosure of the New Forest*, recommended two years back in *THE BUILDER*), are seldom acknowledged, even when acted on. Another mode of dedication, however, now occurs to me, which is, to cover the space simply with glass, for a flower or beauty market, in any kind or sort that may be popular or useful.

Our correspondent, "The Idler in London," has sent us an article with a similar suggestion to this last, but we are not disposed to aid in enclosing the site permanently. We are anxious to see carried out the suggestion made in our pages some time ago to remove the railings, and pave ornamentally the whole area.

#### FATAL ACCIDENT AT KING'S-CROSS TERMINUS.

ON Saturday last two men lost their lives, and two others were seriously injured, at the present temporary terminus of the Great Northern Railway.

In addition to the extensive coal depôts in Maiden-lane, the company are having constructed an immense granary. This building is on the south side of the station, abutting on a spacious dock constructed on the northern side of the Regent's Canal, and immediately facing the dock and works of the Imperial Gas Company. In the building a large number of workmen in the employ of Mr. Jay, the contractor, were at work in various departments, and in a creek on the east side of the granary were employed a number of carpenters, sawyers, &c., the latter, it is stated, working on a kind of floating saw-pit. Some workmen were employed in raising an iron girder to one of the upper floorings, by means of sheer legs. This girder, it is stated, is in weight from five to six tons, and the men had raised it to the fourth story, when suddenly the guide-rope broke, and the ponderous mass fell with a frightful crash, crushing everything in its progress downward to the creek, and killing one man (Kendal), a carpenter, and severely injuring other two men (Green and Rolfe), one of whom has since died. Another man was also injured. Some idea may be formed of the weight which fell, when it is stated that two large logs of timber placed across the creek, as a protection to the sawpit, were completely snapped asunder.

An inquest has since been held, and the jury has returned a verdict of "Accidental death." The guide-rope was said to have been 1½ inch in diameter, and quite sound; but it broke by an accidental jerk in hoisting.

RE-OPENING OF THE METROPOLITAN GRAVE-YARDS.—Between 8th October and 24th ult., it is said, 137 dead bodies have been added to the Spitalfields fever-still. The re-opening of the St. Andrew's, Holborn, nuisance is justified on the ground that it is requisite, in order to horrify the Board of Health and the public, and so to compel them to "pay up" the vested interests in the nuisance. The leech that ever cries, "give, give," only feeds upon living blood, and often to the benefit of its victim; but vested interests in such loathsome sinks of corruption as town and city grave-yards, are a foul and tainted blot upon humanity. With insatiable maw they are ever crying "fees, fees," and ever feeding upon death and corruption, to the utter pollution of the breath of life, and to the destruction, not the benefit, of the living.

#### THE SALFORD PEEL TESTIMONIAL COMPETITION.

SURELY you have misinterpreted a portion of the particulars furnished to competitors for the Peel Testimonial at Salford. You say that "all the designs sent in are to remain the property of the committee." Now, if you look to the particulars sent out by the honorary secretaries, I do think (and hope) you will agree with me, that, although capable of *double entendre*, yet, taken with its context, it infers that the whole of the selected designs are to be retained by the committee, and not that, without any payment for trouble and time, or any recognition of the money actually expended on the various drawings and models, the Salford people are to possess themselves of the entire collection.

Surely, if they do act in this manner, it will be downright robbery. I can assure you, for myself, that had I entertained the least idea of such an intention, the Salford Peel Committee would not even have had from me an application for particulars.

The practice of architecture does to me appear to be in a most fearfully deplorable state, and in an exceedingly unhealthy and unsound condition. Competition is universally the order of the day: cheapness the shrine at which all offer up their homage. Without competing a young architect stands no chance whatever of getting anything to do in his profession. He is, accordingly, forced to sanction, by his own actions, a system, the corruptness, iniquitous proceedings, and unartistic result of which are repugnant to his whole nature.

We juniors are, of a truth, pretty nigh as badly off as the poor sempstresses, and sadly do we require the help of another *Tom Hood* to embody for us the spirit and power of the "Song of a Shirt" in another and a novel form. A COMPETITOR.

Our wording of the particulars admits of the construction put upon it by our correspondent, but of the intention of the committee there is no doubt. Our own strong opinion upon the subject we have already expressed. We have received several letters from competitors complaining of the communication on this subject signed "X," but cannot print them.

#### ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF ROME.

ON the 13th December the anniversary of *Winckelmann's* birthday was celebrated as usual in the library of the above institution, which occurrence had not taken place but nominally since the year 1848. Still, the activity of the Italian archæologists seems not to have abated, in proof of which several interesting works in the process of publication were lying on the table, such as the "*Monumenti Inediti*," the "*Annali Archeologici*" for the current year. The most striking performance, however, was the plan of the *Via Appia*, from Rome to Albano, destined to form several plates for the "*Monumenti Inediti*," which is the first accurate survey of the course of that road, the adjacent villas, tombs, &c. It has been made by M. Rosa, under the immediate superintendence of Canina. The meeting was opened by the president, Councillor *Kestner*, who, in a short speech, prefaced the various papers to be brought before the society. A paper of Dr. Braun, the secretary, then followed, having for its object the central group of the frieze of the Parthenon, in which Mr. B. recognises, besides Demeter and Triptolemos, the heroes of the primeval history of Attica. Dr. Schmidt, of the University of Bonn, then exhibited a vase, purchased at Naples for the museum of the University, with a representation of Bellerophon returning to Iabates, after various adventures; a subject not often met with on vases. Dr. Braun then spoke on the marble discus of the Campana collection, found near Rome. It is ornamented with Bacchic sculptures of great excellence; and Dr. B. explained the use of such reliefs for the porticoes of ancient houses and temples, which he proved by terra-cotta reliefs of the same collection, as well as by some paintings of Pompeii. A paper by Dr. Henzen on the Curatores of the Roman municipal cities, and their difference from the *Quinquennales*, concluded the meeting, which was numerously